

New solutions for Delta have familiar ring to them

Many of the old ideas that failed to solve California's water wars sound a lot like the new possibilities announced Tuesday by government and water interests.

A coalition has been seeking compromises to improve the health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay, while ensuring water for farms, cities and the environment. The coalition unveiled three alternatives that cost from about \$4 billion to nearly \$8 billion.

The most ambitious and costly one is reminiscent of a plan to build a Peripheral Canal around the Delta, an idea rejected by voters in June 1982.

The new proposal involves what the coalition calls an "isolated conveyance facility" that would be built around the Delta to carry water south to farms and cities. It might be a canal or a pipeline, according to the coalition.

"The only thing in common (with the Peripheral Canal) is that it would move water in an isolated fashion around the Delta," said Lester Snow, executive director of the coalition, called the CalFed Bay-Delta Program.

The major difference, he said, is that it would carry no more than 15,000 cubic feet per second, which is less than the 22,000 foreseen for the Peripheral Canal.

The other two alternatives seem familiar as well: improving existing Delta channels or improving storage outside the Delta. But with both, Delta fish would still be exposed to hazards as pumps withdraw water to export, according to the coalition.

IT ISN'T ABOUT WATER EXPORT,
IT'S ABOUT RESPONSIBLE WATER EXPORT WITH FISH SCREENING.

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SENATOR COSTA: I THOUGHT CALFED WAS GOING TO RESTORE THE DELTA BUT IS SEEM TO BE MODELED AFTER THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WHO SPENDS 64 MILLION DOLLARS TO 'IMPROVE WINTER-RUN SALMON HABITAT' WITH COOL WATER FROM SHASTA DAM WHILE 150 MILES DOWNSTREAM THE BUREAU'S UNSCREENED WATER PUMP WAITS TO KILL WINTER-RUN SALMON BENEFITING FROM THE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT.

SO ONE PART OF CALFED IS GOING TO EXPORT MORE WATER AND KILL MORE FISH WHILE THE OTHER PART OF CALFED RESTORE'S THE DAMAGE? IS THAT HOW CALFED IS SUPPOSE TO WORK?

IF YOU CAN GET LESTER TALKING ABOUT HOW HE IS GOING TO START SCREENING EXISTING PUMPS REALLY SOON, I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WILL SUPPORT PROP. 204

BRIAN MURPHY

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGE TO DREAM THESE THINGS UP AND SELL THEM - BUT I AM VERY IMPRESSED.

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